AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Network security system for detecting security relevant irregularities in a network, comprising:

data sources located on ~~and/~~ or constituting the network, with means for generating network-security relevant data;

an input module, with input handlers for various protocols to connect to the data sources;

at least one processing module, connected to said input module for access to said data sources, with means for translating said network-security relevant data into quantitative variables;

a supervisory system, with means for presenting the quantitative variables ~~processed data~~ to a security system operator; and

an interface module, with means for transferring said quantitative variables from the processing module to the supervisory system.

2. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim 1, wherein said data sources comprise at least one of routers, firewalls, hosts, applications, switches, NIDS, and HIDS ~~or any combination thereof~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim 1, wherein the network-security relevant data comprises:

at least one of numerical values maintained via increment/decrement operations, rate calculations, pass-through of values ~~or~~ and evaluation of mathematical expressions involving multiple values; and ~~or any combination thereof, and /or~~

at least one of textual values maintained via template matching, text transformation, text translation, ~~and~~ composition of text from templates, text strings from incoming data and numerical values from incoming data ~~or any combination thereof~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim 1, wherein said supervisory system comprises:

means for displaying said quantitative variables to a system operator, and reaction facilities with means for initiating predefined countermeasures.

5. (Previously Presented) Security system as in claim 1, wherein the processing modules act on individual incoming data messages and batches of those messages.

6. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim ~~1,~~ 4, wherein the displaying means display the quantitative variables ~~security status/health information~~ as quantitative trend graphs with historical data storage and zoom in/out function.

7. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim ~~1,~~ 4, wherein the displaying means display a schematical depiction of the network and device structure and topology.

8. (Currently Amended) Security system as in claim 7, wherein the ~~visual elements denote~~ schematic depiction denotes security status ~~by means of~~ based on at least one of coloring, ~~and/or numerical and/or~~ numerical and textual annotations.

9. (Previously Presented) Security system as in claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:

storage means for maintaining temporary and persistent records of the results of the processing steps for later in-depth analysis.

10. (Currently Amended) Automation system operator workstation in a network with an automation system, comprising:

means for controlling the processes of the automation system over the network, said controlling means comprising a human machine interface with means for displaying information about the automation system to an automation system operator and means for entering commands for controlling the automation system, said automation system operator workstation being connected to a security system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supervisory system is integrated into the automation system controlling means, ~~said status and trend presenting means~~ the quantitative variables being included in the information displaying system of the

human machine interface, and ~~said~~ a countermeasures initiating means being integrated in ~~the~~ a commands entering means.

11. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 10, wherein the data sources comprise at least one of routers, firewalls, hosts, applications, switches, NIDS, and HIDS.

12. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 10, wherein the network-security relevant data comprises:

at least one of numerical values maintained via increment/decrement operations, rate calculations, pass-through of values or evaluation of mathematical expressions involving multiple values; and

at least one of textual values maintained via template matching, text transformation, text translation, and composition of text from templates, text strings from incoming data and numerical values from incoming data.

13. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 10, wherein the supervisory system comprises:

means for displaying said quantitative variables to an system operator, and reaction facilities with means for initiating predefined countermeasures.

14. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 10, wherein the processing modules act on individual incoming data messages and batches of those messages.

15. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 13, wherein the displaying means display the quantitative variables as quantitative trend graphs with historical data storage and zoom in/out function.

16. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 13, wherein the displaying means display a schematical depiction of the network and device structure and topology.

17. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 16, wherein the schematic depiction denotes security status based on at least one of coloring, numerical and textual annotations.

18. (New) Automation system operator workstation as in claim 10, wherein the system further comprises:

storage means for maintaining temporary and persistent records of the results of the processing steps for later in-depth analysis.